



Merry Hill Infant School and Nursery



Welcome to Nursery

"A Happy face, a learning place, a growing space"

Welcome to Merry Hill School, where our vision is at the heart of everything we do.

Our vision reflects our achievements and aspirations, guiding us in preparing lessons, working with children, recruiting staff, and improving facilities.

At Merry Hill, we believe in supporting every child's emotional wellbeing, valuing their individuality, and encouraging their full potential in a safe, caring environment.

We achieve this by working as a team with staff, parents, and the community, providing a stimulating and secure environment, and fostering independence, responsibility, and a love of learning.

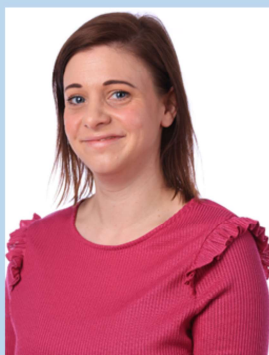
We aim for every child to leave Merry Hill with happy memories of their early years.

Merry Hill School – a place to be happy, to learn, and to grow.

Nursery Team



Mrs Jones



Mrs Parker

Mrs Ogilive-Jones



We'd like to introduce you to the heart of our school – our dedicated staff.

Here are the wonderful team members who bring our vision to life every day, ensuring that Merry Hill School is a place to be happy, to learn, and to grow



Headteacher:

Melissa Adams



**Assistant
Headteacher
(SENCO):**

Mrs Summers



**Assistant
Headteacher
(Curriculum and Standards):**

Sarah Ineson

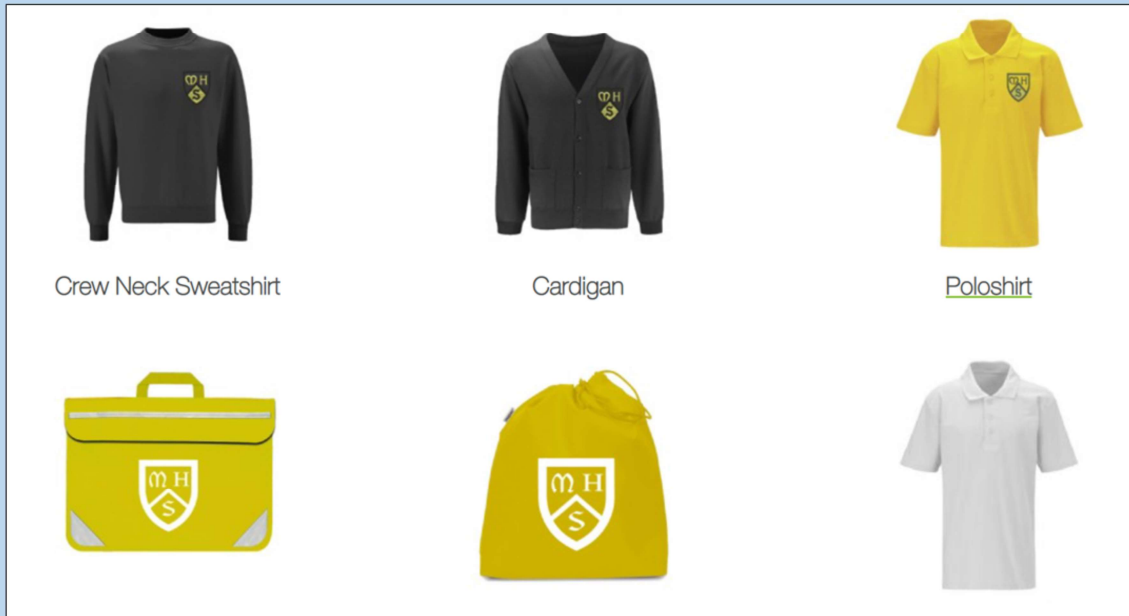
We'd like to introduce our Senior Leadership Team – the driving force behind our school's success.

First, our Headteacher, Ms Adams. She leads our school with dedication and vision, ensuring that every child has the opportunity to thrive.

Next, our Inclusion Coordinator, Mrs Summers. She works tirelessly to support the individual needs of each student, fostering an inclusive and nurturing environment.

Finally, our Assistant Headteacher for Curriculum, Mrs Ineson. She designs and implements a stimulating and balanced curriculum, igniting a love for learning in every child

Uniform



At Merry Hill, our school uniform is designed to be simple, yet smart:

Our students wear a yellow polo shirt with the school badge*, paired with a grey sweatshirt or cardigan also featuring the school badge*. They can choose grey trousers, a skirt, or a pinafore for everyday wear. During the summer term, students may opt for a yellow gingham dress.

Black school shoes are required—trainers are not permitted. Long hair must be tied up to maintain a neat appearance.

Please note, the following are not allowed:

Nail varnish

Temporary tattoos

Jewellery, except for plain stud earrings

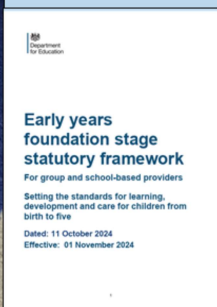
Badged items are available from our school uniform suppliers.

You can find the link on the right side of this page. However, non-badged alternatives can be purchased from most large department stores.

Merry Hill – where we wear our uniform with pride.

PLEASE label everything with your child's name.

New Early Years Curriculum



- See “What to expect in the EYFS document for parents.”
- [what to expect in the EYFS](#)

Welcome to our Outstanding Early Years Curriculum at Merry Hill.

Our approach is guided by four overarching principles:

- Every child is unique,
- Positive relationships,
- Enabling environments,
- Learning and development.

These principles ensure a nurturing and stimulating environment for our youngest learners.

We cover seven areas of learning and development, each with specific Early Learning Goals. These areas are divided into Prime and Specific areas.

Prime areas include:

Communication and Language (CL)
Personal, Social, and Emotional Development (PSED)
Physical Development (PD)

Specific areas include:

Literacy (L)
Mathematics (M)
Understanding the World (UW)
Expressive Arts and Design (EAD)

In 2021, changes were made to the wording of our educational programmes. These updates include more in-depth descriptions and examples of activities to enhance early language skills and extend vocabulary.

Our assessment process includes the Reception Baseline Assessment (RBA) and continuous assessment against the 17 Early Learning Goals. Teachers draw on their expert judgement without the need for extensive documentation, ensuring more interaction and less paperwork.

We also focus on the Characteristics of Effective Learning:

- Playing and exploring
- Active learning
- Creating and thinking critically

Safeguarding is paramount, including promoting good health and oral health among our children.

For more detailed information, refer to the 'What to expect in the EYFS' document available to parents.

At Merry Hill, our Early Years Curriculum supports every child's journey, nurturing their growth and development from Nursery through Reception.

Ambitions

1. All children will be able to retell a narrative using ambitious vocabulary
2. All children will be confident risk takers
3. All children will be global green citizens
4. All children will develop independence and take care of themselves
5. All children will celebrate a variety of cultures
6. All children will consistently use good manners



Our Ambitious Curriculum is uniquely tailored to each cohort of children.

By considering your questionnaires, the experiences children bring with them, and any common needs, we craft a curriculum that nurtures growth and success.

Our curriculum ensures that:

- All children will be able to retell a narrative using ambitious vocabulary.
- All children will become confident risk-takers, embracing challenges with courage.
- All children will develop as global green citizens, understanding their impact on the environment and acting responsibly.
- All children will grow in independence, learning to take care of themselves and their belongings.
- All children will celebrate a variety of cultures, fostering respect and appreciation for diversity.
- All children will consistently use good manners, promoting kindness and respect in their interactions.

At Merry Hill, our goal is to create well-rounded, ambitious learners who are prepared to thrive in an ever-changing world.

Daily Routines

- 8:30 / 12:30 - Fiddly Fingers/ registration
- 8:45 / 12:45
Topic
Maths Tuesday & Thursday focus & songs
Literacy Wednesday & Friday focus & songs
- 9:15/1:00 - Child Initiated Learning (CIL) –
Children lead their learning
Teachers supporting & extending
Snack and water is provided, children access independently
but are supervised
Small group learning
- 11:05-11:30 / 3:15-3:30 Tidy up/hand washing time/phonics/
story/songs/home time
- 11:30 – 12:30 Lunch/Shake your sillies out/story
(Activities are extended for 30 hour placements)

Morning and Afternoon



What should your child bring to school?

- Yellow book bag- please no backpacks and only 1 keyring
- Coat with a hood (even if it looks like a nice day)
- Sun hat
- PE kit
- Wellies

Please name all items so we can return them to you if lost
Please do not bring toys to school

Water Bottles:

Please send this in each day filled with regular water – not flavoured.



What to Bring to School:

Book Bag: Please ensure your child has a book bag with a key ring attached to help identify it. Only one key ring per bag, please. Available on Scopay

Raincoat: Children should leave a raincoat with a hood in school in case of rain, even on the brightest of days.

Glue Stick: Available on Scopay.

PE Kit: Includes a white shirt, black shorts, plimsolls, spare socks, underwear, and a change of uniform.

Water Bottles: Please send this in each day filled with regular water – not flavoured. Water bottles should not have tops that can be removed to drink from, as this can cause wet puddles on the carpet.

Coat: Even if it looks like a nice day, please ensure your child brings a coat to school.

Wellies: Especially for outdoor activities or rainy days.

Please Name All Items: This helps us return them to you if they are lost. Please show your child what their wellies and raincoat look like to help them in finding them.

Note: Please do not allow your child to bring toys to school.

Lunchtime



At our school, we believe that a nourishing meal is essential for a successful day of learning. That's why we take great pride in offering a variety of delicious options for lunchtime.

From hearty vegetarian dishes to flavourful non-vegetarian meals, our school dinners are prepared fresh on-site, ensuring quality and taste in every bite. With a focus on providing balanced nutrition, each meal includes a choice of vegetables alongside the main course, accompanied by fresh fruit and a homemade shortbread biscuit—the children's favourite treat.

If you choose not to have a school dinner, you can provide your child with a packed lunch from home. In line with our healthy eating policy, we kindly ask that packed lunches exclude fizzy drinks, nuts, chocolate, or sweets. Please ensure the packed lunch is in a clearly named lunch box.

The Behaviour Curriculum



Recent government guidance has emphasised the need for schools to develop a behaviour curriculum. There is an inseparable link between teaching and learning and behaviour. To help children and young people succeed we believe that we, as educators, must *teach* rather than *tell*. As a result, our 'Behaviour Curriculum' goes beyond the behaviour policy, it identifies the behaviour and skills we expect each child to master at each age and stage. This curriculum defines each skill and how it can be taught, including the methodology for monitoring and recognising progress. Where there are identified gaps planned interventions will be used to close these gaps; these

interventions will be age and stage appropriate.

Additionally, we empower children with the three-step approach to address situations they don't like:

First, they assert, 'Stop, I don't like it.'

If the behaviour persists, they warn, 'Stop, or I will tell an adult.'

Finally, they confidently inform an adult about the issue, ensuring their concerns are addressed promptly and effectively.

The Merry Hill Way



At Merry Hill, we instil the importance of The Merry Hill Way in every aspect of school life. These rules are simple yet profound and apply to all aspects of school life:

3 Core rules – RRS

4 Core Values – Inclusion resilience responsibility communication

By discussing and referring to these rules consistently, we create a culture where inclusion, responsibility, resilience and communication (our values) are not just encouraged but ingrained in everything we do."

Therapeutic Approaches to Behaviour



At Merry Hill we adopt the Hertfordshire therapeutic thinking behaviour approach. We recognise that every behaviour is a form of communication. If a child seems unsettled, we delve into the underlying reasons, striving to understand their emotions and provide tailored support to help them regulate and settle. Our approach emphasizes positive reinforcement, with verbal praise highlighting how a child's actions positively impact others or make us feel. Additionally, we're proud to have two dedicated tutors at Merry Hill, enriching our commitment to supporting every child's emotional well-being."



We prioritise the holistic development of our students. We're proud to introduce the Jigsaw PSHE programme—a comprehensive framework integrating personal, social, health, and education.

Through Jigsaw, we foster self-esteem, positive behaviour, and healthy relationships. It's a whole-school approach, with all year groups exploring the same theme simultaneously, promoting continuity and progression. Each week, we celebrate a theme from the Jigsaw lesson, encouraging reflection and application of learning. At Merry Hill, Jigsaw isn't just a curriculum—it's a journey towards confident, resilient students.

Outdoor Learning: Mini Forest Explorers



Outdoor learning is an integral part of our curriculum at Merry Hill, and we embrace it in all weather conditions. Rain or shine, we venture outdoors every day, immersing ourselves in nature's classroom.

Additionally, we have dedicated sessions as Mini Forest Explorers at least once a week, where children delve deeper into outdoor exploration and discovery.

To ensure your child fully enjoys these experiences, we kindly ask that you provide them with a pair of wellies, clearly labelled with their name, to keep at school. A waterproof coat is also essential for their comfort and enjoyment of outdoor activities.

At Merry Hill, we believe that outdoor learning offers invaluable opportunities for growth, creativity, and connection with the natural world, enriching our educational journey in meaningful ways.

Physical Education (PE)



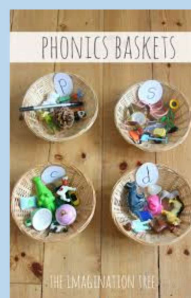
At Merry Hill, we prioritise physical education as an integral part of our curriculum, with dedicated PE sessions taking place every week. These sessions are designed to engage children in a variety of activities, including gymnastics, where they can explore movement and coordination.

Safety is paramount during physical activities, which is why we ask children with long hair, whether boys or girls, to tie it back securely. Additionally, earrings are covered with tape to prevent any accidents or discomfort.

Encouraging independence is a fundamental aspect of our educational approach. Getting changed for PE is not only about preparing for physical activity but also about fostering responsibility and organization. We encourage parents to help children locate their names on their clothes and shoes, promoting a sense of ownership and accountability.

At Merry Hill, we view PE as more than just exercise; it's an opportunity for children to develop essential life skills such as independence, responsibility, and organization, setting them up for success both inside and outside the classroom.

Phonics



Phonics is a fundamental part of our daily curriculum at Merry Hill, with dedicated lessons taking place every day.

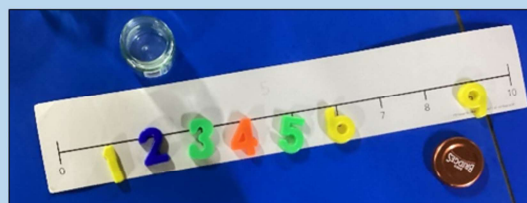
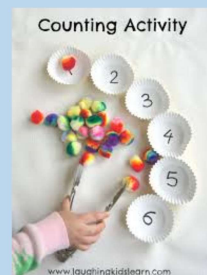
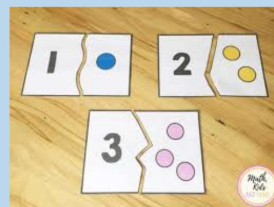
We proudly adhere to the Essential Letters and Sounds programme, a comprehensive approach designed to foster strong phonetic skills in our students.

Central to our phonics teaching is the concept of pure sounds, where children learn to articulate phonetic sounds accurately and distinctly.

To aid in this process, we provide a workshop for parents in the autumn term for further practice and reinforcement at home.

In Nursery we focus of oral blending and auditory discrimination.

Literacy and Maths



At Merry Hill, literacy takes centre stage with daily lessons aimed at nurturing a love for language and communication.

Through a rich variety of activities, both indoors and outdoors, children are encouraged to explore the world of mark-making using diverse media such as chalk, pencil, paint, and even tracing in glitter or printing in playdough.

From the earliest stages, children are provided with ample opportunities to mark make progressing to making recognisable letters then their names.

Through daily literacy lessons infused with creativity and engagement, we aim to inspire a lifelong passion for language and literacy in every child at Merry Hill.

In Maths we are developing one to one correspondence when counting. Children will understand the “threeness of three” etc.

We support learning at home in a variety of ways

Look out for:

- Parent consultations meetings
- Home learning suggestions (that may include joint child and parent/carer mini projects)
- Parent/carer workshops (for example, how to support early reading)
- Information and tips in newsletters, school website
- Home/school learning packs
- Information on displays around school

Volunteering



At Merry Hill, we welcome and appreciate the involvement of parents and community members in enriching the educational experience of our children.

If you have a special skill or a cultural celebration you'd like to share with our students, we invite you to reach out to our teachers.

Additionally, if you're interested in volunteering on a regular basis, whether it's reading with children or assisting in the library, we value your support.

For those willing to commit their time regularly, we require a disclosure and barring service check for safeguarding purposes. Please visit the school office for more information on how to proceed with this process.

Your contributions, whether big or small, play a vital role in enhancing our school community and providing valuable learning opportunities for our children.

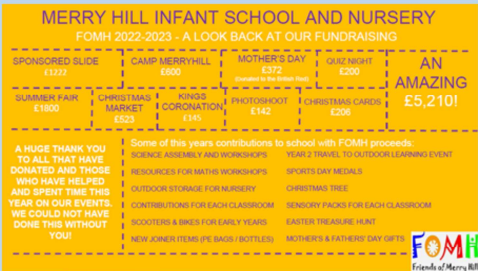
Thank you for considering volunteering with us!"



Come and join us!

We would love to see some new faces! To join our dedicated team, please email FOMH@merryhill.Herts.sch.uk to find out more.

We will contact all new parents in September



If you are ordering name tags / stickers – FOMH will get a contribution from the following suppliers:

1. MyNametags – enter code 5882
1. Stikins – enter code 13294

The Friends of Merry Hill is a dedicated group of parents, teachers, and community members who work together to support our school and enhance the educational experience of our children.

The FoMH organizes various fundraising events, such as bake sales, fun runs, and school fairs, to raise funds for school projects, equipment, and extracurricular activities.

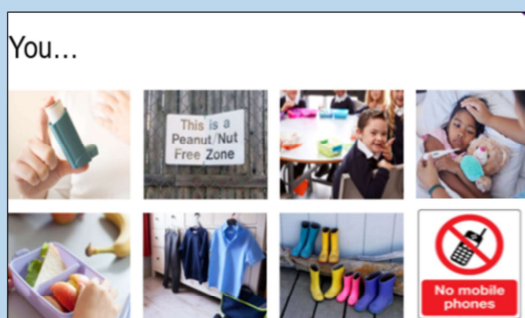
These funds directly benefit our students by providing additional resources and opportunities that enrich their learning journey.

We encourage all parents and carers to get involved with the Friends of merry Hill and contribute their time, skills, and ideas. Whether you can volunteer at events, help with planning and organizing, or simply attend meetings to share your thoughts, your involvement is invaluable.

To learn more about the FoMH, upcoming events, and how you can get involved, please contact the school office or keep an eye out for announcements in our newsletters and emails.

Thank you in advance for your support in making Merry Hill a vibrant and thriving community for our children!

Keeping children safe is everyone's responsibility



Medication – vital to share info on children medical needs and ensure medication is kept up to date.

Some children are allergic to nuts. No nut or nut based products in school including chocolate.

Healthy lunch box.

Keep children off school for at least 48 hours after the last attack of vomiting or diarrhoea (If they are just under the weather please send them in and we will let you know if they need to be collected. Attendance is expected – 96% attendance is expected. Children who attend regularly settle more easily and make better progress.

Clothes for outdoor learning. No such thing as unsuitable weather just unsuitable clothing.

Suncream cannot be shared and the child needs to apply it to themselves

Access to water in all classes

Everything needs to be named.

Please greet your child with a friendly face rather than being on your phone. No phone use on school premises.

You will be given an opportunity to join a whatsapp group if you want to. Please be mindful of our e safety agreement. The school and the pupils and staff should not be brought into disrepute. Please just come and speak to us if you have any issues.

"At Merry Hill, the safety and wellbeing of your child are our top priorities. We

encourage open communication between home and school to ensure we can provide the best support possible for your child.

Please keep us informed of any changes in routines or circumstances that may affect your child's wellbeing.

Whether it's a change in family dynamics, routines, or any other relevant information, sharing these details with us helps us tailor our support to meet your child's needs effectively.

In addition to communication and safeguarding, we take e-safety seriously at Merry Hill. E-safety education is integrated into our computing lessons and is reinforced throughout the curriculum where appropriate. We believe in empowering our students with the knowledge and skills to navigate the online world safely and responsibly.

If there are any changes in your child's life that you feel we should be aware of, please don't hesitate to let us know. Whether it's a parent away for a few days, relatives visiting, or a change in sleep routine, your input helps us ensure the continued wellbeing of your child.

Wellbeing and Readiness to Learn



Ensuring your child's wellbeing and readiness to learn aligns with our school's commitment to nurturing healthy learners. By fostering a consistent routine and encouraging independence, we aim to support each child's physical, emotional, and cognitive development.

Our focus on healthy learners encompasses the importance of maintaining a balanced lifestyle, including regular sleep patterns and nutritious meals. A structured routine, with established bedtime and meal times, helps children to feel energized and prepared for the demands of the school day. By prioritizing these habits, we aim to optimize their learning potential and overall wellbeing.

Encouraging independence is another key aspect of our approach to fostering healthy learners. We believe in empowering children to take ownership of their actions and responsibilities, both at home and in the classroom. Through activities like dressing themselves, managing their belongings, and assisting with household tasks, children develop essential life skills that contribute to their sense of confidence and self-efficacy.

Furthermore, providing enriching experiences outside of the classroom reinforces our commitment to holistic development. Whether it's exploring books at the library, engaging in interactive games, or participating in outdoor activities, these experiences enhance children's cognitive abilities, social skills, and emotional resilience.

By linking our efforts to promote wellbeing and readiness to learn with our school's overarching goal of fostering healthy learners, we strive to create an environment where every child can thrive and reach their full potential.

Communications

- Please email or call the school office for any attendance messages or changes to collection information.
- A member of staff will be at the door each morning with a messages book.



WOW cards are sent home each half term or you can download them on the website in the EYFS resources section.

- Let us know if your child has done anything particularly exciting/ if it's their birthday/ they have lost their first tooth etc through WOW cards.

Tapestry:

We would love to hear from you via memos on Tapestry or by adding WOW moments and observations.

- Keep us updated on how home reading is going
- Let us know if your child has done anything particularly exciting/ if it's their birthday/ they have lost their first tooth etc, had a WOW moment.
- You can email us via:

admin@merryhill.herts.sch.uk

For any attendance messages or changes to collection information, please email or call the school office. Additionally, a member of staff will be available at the door each morning with a messages book to assist you.

Throughout the year, we celebrate your child's achievements and milestones through WOW cards, which are sent home each half term. Alternatively, you can download them from the EYFS resources section on our website. Please let us know if your child has accomplished anything particularly exciting, such as a birthday or losing their first tooth, by filling out a WOW card.

We also encourage communication through Tapestry, our online learning journal. You can share WOW moments and observations, update us on your child's home reading progress, and inform us of any exciting events in your child's life. Simply add memos on Tapestry to keep us informed.

If you have any questions or updates, please email admin@merryhill.herts.sch.uk.

We value your input and look forward to staying connected with you.

Lastly:

Sometimes timetables change due to unforeseen circumstances

Please Reminder: Check our Nursery blog regularly to see some of the exciting learning we have been doing!

<https://merryhill.org.uk/our-learning-community/home-learning/nursery/>

What to do next:

Begin your transition activities sent home at the meet the teachers meetings.

Share the social story on this presentation with your child.

Look at the Blog with your child.

We look forward to seeing you on Thursday 4th September.

Before we wrap up, please remember that sometimes timetables may need to be adjusted due to unforeseen circumstances.

We appreciate your understanding in such situations.

As we conclude, we encourage you to stay connected with us through our Reception blog, where you can explore the exciting learning experiences we've been sharing.

The link to our blog is provided here.

Looking ahead, here's what you can do next:

Begin the transition activities sent home from our Stay and Play sessions.

Share the social story included following this page with your child.

Explore our blog together with your child.

Remember, your partnership is crucial. You know your child best, and your insights help us ensure their happiness and success at school.

Thank you for your ongoing support. We're excited to embark on this journey together!

Questions?

To find out any further information please go to our website <http://merryhill.org.uk/> and look under the section Our School – Starting School at Merry Hill.
On the right hand side of the page you will see a document entitled 'Starting School Booklet' which includes more detailed information.

Please email any further questions to the office.

Thank you for joining us on this virtual journey into life at Merry Hill. We eagerly anticipate the opportunity to meet you in person in September. Together, we'll embark on an exciting adventure filled with learning, growth, and countless memorable moments. See you soon!



Merry Hill



A social story for children
starting Nursery 2025.

This is my new nursery school.
I will be starting here in September.
My new school is called Merry Hill.



I will go through the big gate and walk
up the wide path until I reach the
Nursery classroom.





This is where I will come into
Nursery.



This is where I hang up my coat and PE bags up. It is around the corner just as I come through the door.



My Wellie boots are kept in the boot cupboards. Remember to name everything!



I will meet lots of new children.
I may know some children already.
I may not know any of the children.
My teachers will help me settle into school and I will make friends.





This where I put my water bottle away.
This is the snack area. I can help myself
to water and snack
at anytime during CIL.



These are the Nursery toilets. You can use them at anytime throughout the day. Don't forget to wash your hands!



Nursery's Carpet Area and where we sit down to do some of our learning.





There will be lots of different activities to choose from.
 Most times I will be able to choose my own activity –Child Initiated Learning (CIL).
 I will help to tidy up after an activity.
 I will know what is happening as my teacher will go through the visual timetable.
 Writing Area
 Creative Area
 Maths Area
 Reading Area





I can go out this door to get to the Nursery Garden during CIL.



This is my outdoor classroom.

I may be able to choose to play outside.

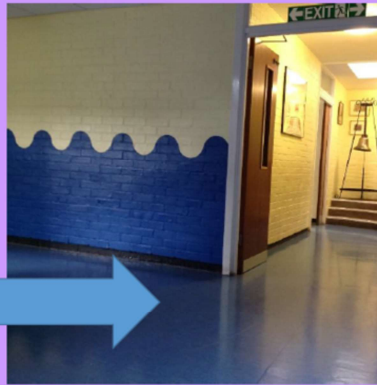
I may have to put my wellies and coat on.

I may have to wear a sunhat and sunscreen.



This door leads me to the corridor
which leads me to the dining room
for ...

Lunchtime!



I may choose to bring a packed lunch or have a school dinner.

I will sit with my friends to eat my lunch.

The teachers and Midday Supervisors (MSAs) will help me to get my school dinner or if I need someone to cut up my food so I don't have to worry.



End of Social Story